WILLIAM KENNEDY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

INCORPORATED

BROOKLYN

SELECTED PHOTOGRAPHS

ILLUSTRATING THE RECENT WORK

« of »

WILLIAM KENNEDY
CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
INCORPORATED

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

215 MONTAGUE STREET
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

1929

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY RUPERT SANFORD

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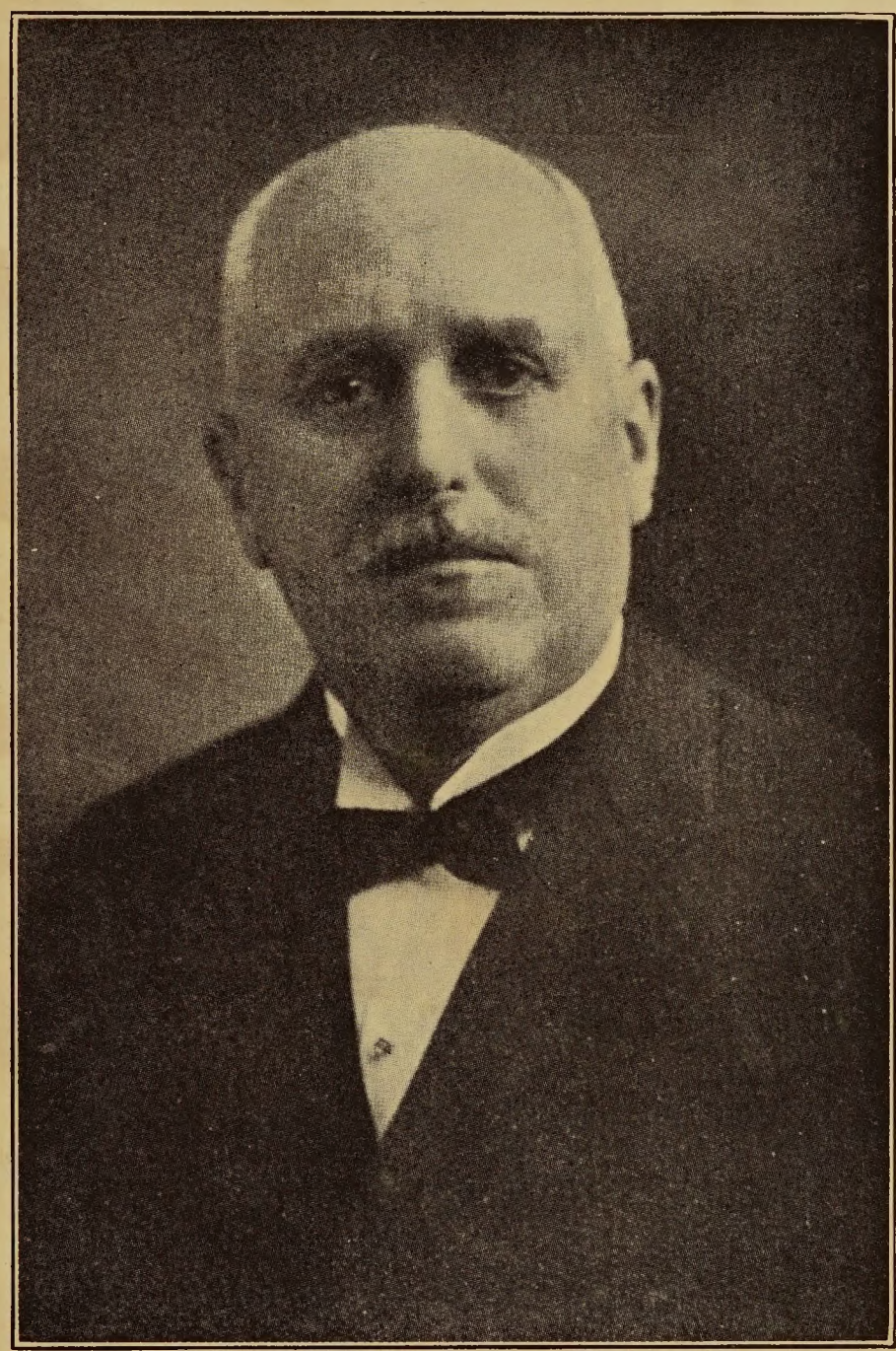


WILLIAM KENNEDY

The Story of a Master Builder

By John B. Reynolds

Behind the success of every individual or organization lies a story. Courageous leadership, determination, ambition in unstinted measure, fuel the pen from which flows the story of accomplishment. Spiced with adventure and pluck is the tale of the William Kennedy Construction Company, 215 Montague Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Burrowing into the innards of the earth, weaving giant bones of steel into frameworks of majestic structures, moulding tons of mortar, granite, marble and brick into regal edifices, the Kennedy Company occupies the throne of King Builder in Brooklyn.

Born in Belfast, the son of John Kennedy, a soldier who survived the world famous battle at Balaklava in the Crimean War, William Kennedy, came to America with his father in 1870 at the age of five. They settled in Brooklyn. He attended Public School 5, on Gold Street and upon his graduation entered a business college.

Before coming to this country John Kennedy, father of William, at the age of seventeen joined the Royal Horse Artillery of the British Army endowed with the courage and determination of old Erin. Anxious to taste the sweetness of adventure, the bitterness of privation and to profit by association with mature, hardened veterans, he journeyed with that outfit to the scene of the Crimean War and participated in engagements at Alma, Inkerman, Balaklava and the siege of Sebastopol, dashing "into the jaws of death; into the mouth of Hell."

Sir Alfred Tennyson in that immortal poem, "The Charge of the Light Brigade," painted an eloquent, stirring word picture of how "someone had blundered." But "their's not to reason why; their's but to do or die." John Kennedy was one of the 673 men who rode into battle; one of the 195 who came back.

His courage was intensified, his character moulded by this gruelling experience. He learned self-reliance, fairness, honesty and perseverance; attributes which he handed down to his son, William, and grandson, William, Jr.

That same courage and ability to surmount seemingly impregnable obstacles, which he learned in his earlier days, applied to commercial endeavors, won for John Kennedy a conspicuous place in the building trade.

During those days when William was receiving his elementary education, his father was striving for recognition as a builder. The expeditious manner in which he completed contracts, the perfection of his workmanship and his aptitude at hurdling every difficulty, spurred him to a commanding position in the trade.

When William Kennedy completed his schooling he entered his father's employ; not as an official, but at the bottom rung of the ladder. His day began before Old Sol peaked over the horizon. At 5.15 A. M. he boarded the Fulton Ferry for Manhattan, then rode in a horse drawn bus to 59th Street and Sixth Avenue where the Navarre Flats were in the course of construction under his father's supervision, already a noted builder.

This structure, since demolished, was the first in Greater New York to rise nine stories. Thus has the Kennedy family not only witnessed but given impetus to the evolution of building.

Laboring on this structure, William Kennedy began an apprenticeship which lasted four years. At the outset he received a dollar a day—no work no pay. After two years of manual labor he received the current journeyman's wages, two dollars for a twelve hour day which began at 7 A. M.

Six months later he accepted employment with the Richard Deeves building firm which he described as "a measure designed to inculcate self-reliance." Two years later he was earning four dollars a day. He then rejoined his father, as a foreman. When he attained his majority, William Kennedy was placed in charge of important construction work, having demonstrated his superiority over other employees who might have qualified for the position. Two years later he was made a partner in the firm.

The first steel structure constructed under William Kennedy's direction was the Arbuckle Sugar Refinery and warehouse, on the Brooklyn waterfront. This was in 1900. The Kennedy firm then completed the armory of Troop C, which cost approximately $500,000 and con-

tained what at that time were the largest steel spans in the world. From 1900 to 1907 many waterfront buildings were erected under Mr. Kennedy's supervision. Brooklyn industries were at that time creeping toward the world leadership possessed today.

In the same assiduous fashion exemplified by his father, yet intensified a hundredfold, William Kennedy carried on where his Dad left off. Temples of worship, shrines of finance, cathedrals of merriment, fraternal edifices, institutions of healing, massive apartments, have risen at the command of and stand today as monuments to the Kennedy organization.

Co-ordinating the many cogs which make up his building machine, Mr. Kennedy has displayed that same mastery of building within his own company which has been manifest in its operations. Its functions are so systematized, so devoid of complications and unanticipated problems that tons of concrete have been set, thousands of rivets shot into skeletons of steel and with Aladdin-like magic unsightly, dilapidated masses of wood and brick have been swept aside, great foundations laid and towering structures erected.

The beauty, permanency and exactitude of every "Kennedy" construction detail has won for the company a pyramiding host of admirers.

Masterpieces of "Kennedy" workmanship include: Columbus Club, home of Columbus Council, K. of C., 1 Prospect Park West; the E. F. Albee theatre; the twenty-three story office building of the North River Insurance Company, 110 William Street, Manhattan; the new Williamsburgh Savings Bank Building, opposite the L. I. R. R. Depot at Flatbush Avenue; the last mentioned is declared to be without architectural equal in the greater city.

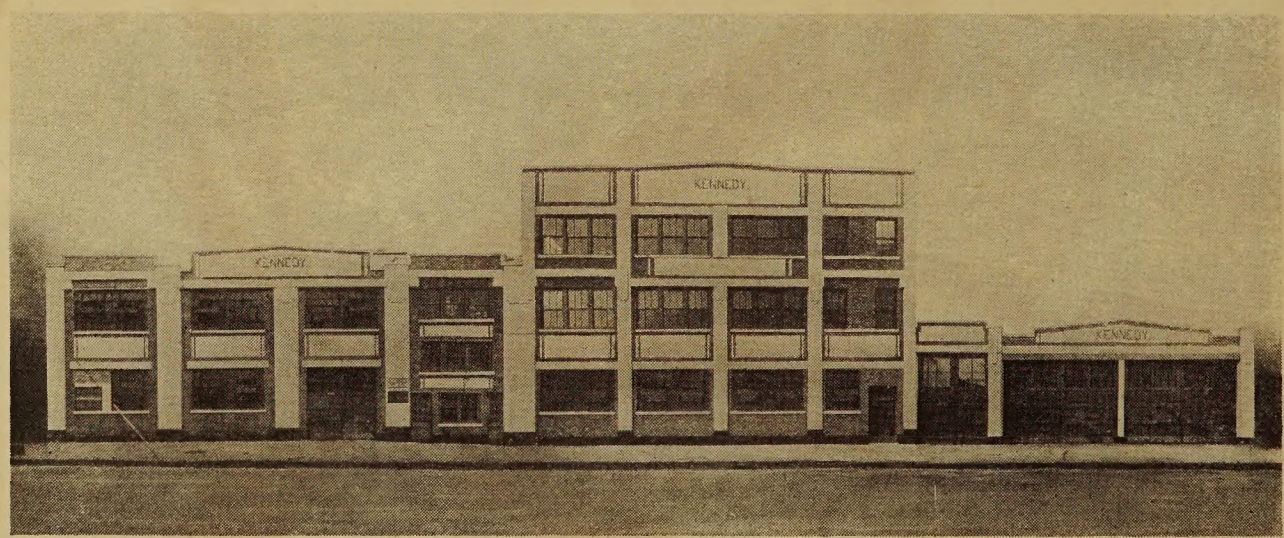
The Broadway Temple, erected at a cost of $5,500,000 at Broadway between 173rd and 174th Streets, Manhattan, is another gem in the Kennedy diadem. It houses a virtual village and includes a church, gymnasium and apartment, a hotel, stores and an auditorium capable of seating 2,200. It rises thirty-four stories. Erected on high ground, the church spire rises far above the citadels of business, to the highest altitude of any place of worship in the metropolitan area. "We built the Broadway Temple not for profit but for the glory of God," explains

Mr. Kennedy, whose piety and deep religious fervor has been evidenced by his participation in many church movements of the borough.

Just as his Dad joined his father, William Kennedy, Jr., has entered the business and today many problems of cost, production and estimation are thrust on the younger member of the firm whose business sagacity, mature judgment and alertness have commanded for him the respect of contemporaries and captains of commerce and industry.

Rated as monuments to the Kennedy Construction Company are: the new structure of St. John's Hospital; Bethany Presbyterian Church; Arion Pythian Temple; Borden Milk Plant, Long Island City; Caledonian Hospital; Highland Park and Carlton Avenue Branches of the Y. M. C. A.; Stewart Hall Apartments, Manhattan; National Title and Guarantee Company Building, Montague Street, Brooklyn; Northport Trust Company Edifice; Brooklyn Times Building; Brooklyn Eye and Ear Hospital; the office building of the Kings County Real Estate Corporation; Sailor's Snug Harbor Apartments, Manhattan; New York Congregational Home for the Aged.

One of the largest present undertakings is the construction of the new edifice of the Central Methodist Episcopal Church, adjoining the Williamsburgh Savings Bank Building.



YARD AND TRIM MILL, WILLIAM KENNEDY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC.
BROOKLYN, N Y.

WILLIAMSBURGH
SAVINGS BANK BUILDING
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

HALSEY, MCCORMACK & HELMER, INC.
Architects

CONTRACT EXECUTED
1929

Churches — Temples, Club Houses, Etc.

Built by William Kennedy Construction Co., Inc.

Colony Settlement House, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Columbus Council, K. of C. No. 126, Club House, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Arbuckle-Beecher Memorial Community Building, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Kedron Hall, Masonic Temple, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Temple Beth Elohim, Community House, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Temple Isaac, Brooklyn, N. Y.

The Corner Stone Temple, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Y. M. C. A. (Highland Park Branch), Brooklyn, N. Y.

Y. M. C. A. (Carlton Avenue Branch), Brooklyn, N. Y.

Salvation Army Headquarters (Brooklyn), Brooklyn, N. Y.

Vandeveer Park M. E. Church Sunday School, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Flatbush Congregational Church, Parish House, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Baptist Church of the Redeemer, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Baptist Church of the Reedeemer Sunday School, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Bethany Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, N. Y.

St. James M. E. Church, Lynbrook, L. I.

Methodist Episcopal Home for the Aged, Brooklyn, N. Y.

N. Y. Congregational Home for the Aged, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Chapin Home for Aged, Jamaica, L. I.

BROADWAY
TEMPLE,
NEW YORK CITY

VOORHEES, GMELIN & WALKER
Architects

UNDER CONSTRUCTION
1929

BEAUTIFUL LOBBY OF E. F. ALBEE THEATRE
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

T. W. LAMB, *Architect*

CONTRACT EXECUTED 1925

E. F. Albee Theatre and Office Building

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

T. W. Lamb, *Architect*

CONTRACT EXECUTED 1925

Hospitals — Sanitariums, Etc.

Built by William Kennedy Construction Co., Inc.

Caledonian Hospital, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Brooklyn Eye and Ear Hospital, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Methodist Episcopal Hospital (Women's Building), Brooklyn, N. Y.
Methodist Episcopal Hospital, Nurses' Home, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Brooklyn Cancer Research Hospital, Brooklyn, N. Y.
St. Giles Hospital for Crippled Children, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Norwegian Hospital (Addition), Brooklyn, N. Y.
Church Charity Foundation, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Kings County Hospital, 2 Buildings, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Flower Hospital, New York.
2 Hospital Buildings, Randall's Island, N. Y.

Brooklyn Eye & Ear Hospital

Brooklyn, N. Y.

Crow, Lewis & Wick, *Architects*

Contract executed 1929

WOMAN'S BUILDING, M. E. HOSPITAL
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

CROW, LEWIS & WICK, *Architects*

CONTRACT EXECUTED 1923

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL GROUP—CHURCH CHARITY FOUNDATION
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

LORD & HEWLETT, *Architects*

CONTRACT EXECUTED 1929

Knights of Columbus Clubhouse No. 126

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

Short & Riggs, *Architects*

CONTRACT EXECUTED 1925

GRAND BALLROOM, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CLUBHOUSE NO. 126
BROOKLYN, N. Y

SHORT & RIGGS, *Architects*

CONTRACT EXECUTED 1925

Banks — Trust Companies, Etc.

Built by William Kennedy Construction Co., Inc.

Williamsburgh Savings Bank, Central Office, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dime Savings Bank (Main Branch Extension), Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dime Savings Bank (Bensonhurst Branch), Brooklyn, N. Y.

Flatbush Savings Bank, Brooklyn, N. Y.

City Savings Bank, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Flatbush National Bank, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Granite National Bank, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Brooklyn Trust Co. (Bay Ridge Branch, Mechanics), Brooklyn, N. Y.

Brooklyn Trust Co. (Flatbush Branch, Mechanics), Brooklyn, N. Y.

Northport Trust Co., Northport, L. I.

Brooklyn National Bank Alteration, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Hamilton National Bank, New York.

National Exchange Bank & Trust Co., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Brooklyn Trust Co. (Montague Street Branch, Mechanics) Alterations, Brooklyn, N. Y.

SUFFOLK TITLE & GUARANTEE COMPANY
JAMAICA, N. Y.

DENNISON & HIRONS, *Architects*

CONTRACT EXECUTED 1929

48 Grosvenor Hotel, New York 13 Montague Terrace Apts., Brooklyn, N. Y. 20 Williamsburgh Sa

16 National Title Guaranty Co., Brooklyn, N. Y

49 Church Charity Foundation

A "KENNEDY

1 Baptist Church of the Redeemer, Brooklyn, N. Y.

2 Colony House, Brooklyn, N. Y.

54 Y. M. C. A. (Carlton Avenue Branch), Brooklyn, N. Y.

3 Brooklyn Times Building, Brooklyn, N. Y.

4 Temple Beth Elohim, Brooklyn, N. Y.

5 City Savings Bank, Brooklyn, N. Y.

6 Mechanic's Bank (Flatbush Branch), Brooklyn, N. Y.

7 M. Levine & Son, Candy Plant, Brooklyn, N. Y.

8 Bridge-Johnson Hotel, Brooklyn, N. Y.

9 St. Clare Parochial School, New York.

10 Methodist Hospital, Woman's Building, Brooklyn, N. Y.

11 E. F. Albee Theatre, Brooklyn, N. Y.

12 Samuel W. Peck & Co. Factory, Brooklyn, N. Y.

14 Henry C. Griffin Co. Factory, Brooklyn, N. Y.

15 Our Lady of Peace School, Brooklyn, N. Y.

17 Balch Price & Co., Brooklyn, N. Y.

18 West Side Savings Bank, New York.

19 St. Joseph's Institute, New Rochelle, N. Y.

21 Stewart Hall, New York.

22 Miramar Apartments, Coney Island, N. Y.

23 Parish House, Church of the Transfiguration, New York.

25 Columbus Council, No. 126, K. of C. Clubhouse.

26 Dime Savings Bank (Bensonhurst Branch), Brooklyn, N. Y.

gs Bank, Brooklyn, N. Y. 29 Suffolk Title Guarantee, Jamaica, L. I. 50 Broadway Temple, New York

24 North River Insurance Co., New York

ospital Group, Brooklyn, N. Y.

BUILT" CITY

27 Methodist Home for the Aged, Brooklyn, N. Y.
28 Northport Trust Co., Northport, L. I.
30 Brooklyn Eye & Ear Hospital, Brooklyn, N. Y.
31 Don Bosco Institute, Ramsey, N. J.
32 Franklin Arms Apartment Hotel, Brooklyn, N. Y.
33 Boorum & Pease, Factory, Brooklyn, N. Y.
34 American Law Book Company, Office Building, Brooklyn, N. Y.
35 Mechanic's Bank (Bay Ridge Branch), Brooklyn, N. Y.
53 Temple Isaac, Brooklyn, N. Y.
36 Brooklyn College of Pharmacy, Brooklyn, N. Y.
37 Y. M. C. A. (Highland Park), Brooklyn, N. Y.
38 Nurses' Home, M. E. Hospital, Brooklyn, N. Y.
39 Caledonian Hospital, Brooklyn, N. Y.
40 Granite National Bank, Brooklyn, N. Y.
51 Professional Building, Brooklyn, N. Y.
46 Arbuckle-Beecher Memorial, Brooklyn, N. Y.
41 E. W. Bliss Co. Foundry, Brooklyn, N. Y.
42 Brooklyn Retail Butchers' Building, Brooklyn, N. Y.
43 Borden Milk Co. Plant, Long Island City, N. Y.
44 Boooklyn Cancer Research Hospital, Brooklyn, N. Y.
52 N. Y. Congregational Home for the Aged, Brooklyn, N. Y.
45 Sailor's Snug Harbor Apartments, New York.
47 Brooklyn Garden Apartments, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Office Buildings—Stores, Etc.

Built by William Kennedy Construction Co., Inc.

National Title Guaranty Co., Brooklyn, N. Y.
National Title Guaranty Co., Jamaica, L. I.
Suffolk Title & Guarantee Co., Jamaica, L. I.
N. Y. Title Co. (Alterations), Brooklyn, N. Y.
North River Insurance Co., New York.
Kings County R. E. Corp., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Professional Building, Brooklyn, N. Y.
E. F. Albee Theatre, Brooklyn, N. Y.
American Law Book Co., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Brooklyn Daily Times, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Brooklyn Daily Eagle, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Cohn Bros. Furniture Bldg., Brooklyn, N. Y.
J. W. & W. H. Reid, Show Rooms, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Balch Price Co. Store, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Ascutney Building, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Queens Medical Centre, Forest Hills, L. I.

NORTH RIVER
INSURANCE COMPANY
NEW YORK CITY

FRANK H. QUINBY
Architect

CONTRACT EXECUTED
1918

NATIONAL TITLE
GUARANTY COMPANY
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

CORBETT, HARRISON & MACMURRAY
Architects

CONTRACT EXECUTED
1929

ARBUCKLE BEECHER MEMORIAL
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

WOODRUFF LEEMING, *Architect*

CONTRACT EXECUTED 1914

Schools — Colleges, Etc.

Built by William Kennedy Construction Co., Inc.

Don Bosco Institute, Ramsey, N. J.

Greenlawn School, Greenlawn, L. I.

Polytechnic Preparatory Day School Chapel, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Northport Union School, Northport, L. I.

Our Lady of Peace School, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Syosset School, Syosset, L. I.

St. Joseph's Institute, New Rochelle, N. Y.

St. Clare's Parochial School, New York.

College of Pharmacy, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Church of the Transfiguration School, Mott Street, New York.

BROOKLYN COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

TOOKER & MARSH, *Architects*

CONTRACT EXECUTED 1929

Top: Organ, Grille and Altar

Left: Auditorium

Bottom: Corner, Main Lobby

Right: Chapel

Temple Beth Elohim

TEMPLE HOUSE, CONGREGATION BETH ELOHIM
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

DAVID LEVY, *Architect*

CONTRACT EXECUTED 1929

Apartments—Hotels, Etc.

Built by William Kennedy Construction Co., Inc.

Hotel Grosvenor, New York.
Sailors' Snug Harbor Apartments, New York.
Garden Apartments, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Miramar Apartments, Coney Island, N. Y.
Montague Terrace, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Stewart Hall, New York.
Up-an-in-Hotel, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Franklin Arms Hotel, Brooklyn, N. Y.

GROSVENOR HOTEL
NEW YORK CITY

SCHWARTZ & GROSS
Architects

CONTRACT EXECUTED
1927

SAILORS' SNUG HARBOR APARTMENTS
NEW YORK CITY

CORBETT, HARRISON & MACMURRAY, *Architects*

CONTRACT EXECUTED 1929

NO. 2 MONTAGUE TERRACE
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

J. B. SNOOK SONS
Architects

CONTRACT EXECUTED
1928

BROOKLYN TIMES BUILDING, BROOKLYN, N. Y.

HELMLE, CORBETT & HARRISON, *Architects*

CONTRACT EXECUTED 1926

Factories — Industrial Plants, Etc.

Built by William Kennedy Construction Co., Inc.

Brooklyn Retail Butchers, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Louis Meyer Provision Plant, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Oxenburg Bros., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Borden Milk Co., Long Island City, N. Y.
John Bene Chemical Co., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Boorum & Pease Co., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Benjamin Moore & Co., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Independent Salt Co., Brooklyn, N. Y.
S. Tuttle & Son, Garage, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Pure Oil Co., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Liquid Carbonic Co., Maspeth, L. I.
Samuel W. Peck & Co. (2 Buildings), Brooklyn, N. Y.
E. W. Bliss Co., Brooklyn, N. Y.
M. Levine & Son, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Soss Mfg. Co., Brooklyn, N. Y.
A. I. Namm & Son, Garage, Brooklyn, N. Y.
John Maxwell & Son, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Henry C. Griffin & Co., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Mohegan Tube Co., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Debevois Paint Co., Brooklyn, N. Y.

BORDEN MILK COMPANY PLANT
LONG ISLAND CITY, N. Y.

ALBERT ULLRICH, *Architect*

CONTRACT EXECUTED, 1928

2 The Town House, New York
Bowden & Russell, *Architects.*

3 Central Methodist Episcopal Church, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Halsey, McCormack & Helmer, Inc., *Architects.*

BUILDINGS UNDER CONSTRUCTION 1929

1 Professional Building,
Brooklyn, N. Y.
L. P. Botting, *Architect.*

6 Brooklyn Daily Eagle
Brooklyn, N. Y.
Howell & Thomas, *Architects.*

4 Ascutney Corp. Building,
Brooklyn, N. Y.
Lauritz Lauritzen, *Architect.*

5 Queens Medical Centre,
Forest Hills, L. I.
Visscher & Burley, *Architects.*

7 Nurses' Home, M. E. Hospital
Brooklyn, N. Y.
Lord & Hewlett, *Architects.*

AVERY

DESIGNED AND COMPILED BY
JOHN B. REYNOLDS
235 CUMBERLAND ST., BROOKLYN, N. Y.